

Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /076 W

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R 101403Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3275

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3653

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, EG

SUBJECT: COORDINATION STRATEGY FOR "NEW ARAB DRIVE".

SUMMARY. AHARAM CLAIMS AN ARAB COORDINATION SCENARIOS EXISTS INVOLVING SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS AND MEETINGS BETWEEN CAIRO, DAMASCUS, PLO AND RIYADH. PAPER ALSO ALLEGES SARG-GOE-PLO TALKS WILL BE AT LEVEL OF CHIEFS OF STATE, WHICH WE DOUBT. ARAFAT IS CONTINUING PRAISE FOR GOE AND SADAT IN PUBLIC UTTERANCES HERE, END SUMMARY.

1. AHARAM HAS "LEARNED" THAT "IMPORTANT CONTACTS ARE NOW BEING HELD AT HIGHEST LEVEL BETWEEN CAIRO, RIYADH, DAMASCUS AND THE PLO" TO WORK OUT COMPREHENSIVE ARAB STRATEGY. (COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST TIME SAUDI ARABIA HAS BEEN INTEGRATED BY EGYPTIAN PRESS INTO ARAB FRONTLINE GROUP. SAUDI EMBOFF HAS TOLD US, HOWEVER, THAT AHARAM STORY IS MORE IMAGINATIVE THAN FACTUAL.)

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2. IN ITS LEAD STORY APRIL 10, AHARAM LISTS THE SERIES OF COORDINATED STEPS OF THIS NEW ARAB DRIVE":

(A) EGYPTIAN-PALESTINIAN TALKS DUE TO END TODAY (APRIL 10); TALKS CLIMAXED WITH "LENGTHY MEETING" BETWEEN PRESIDENT SADAT AND ARAFAT.

(B) SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN TALKS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN TWO DAYS IN DAMASCUS. ARAFAT WILL MEET WITH PRESIDENT ASAD "TO COMPLETE CONTACTS BEGUN THREE DAYS AGO BETWEEN ASAD AND FATAH'S ABU IYAD".

(C) EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN TALKS WILL TAKE FORM OF "SUMMIT" CONFERENCE; NO DATE OR VENUE SET. (COMMENT: MFA OFFICIAL TOLD US APRIL 8 THAT PARTICIPANTS IN TRIPARTITE MEETING WERE NOT FINALLY DETERMINED, BUT THAT ALMOST CERTAINLY IT WOULD BE AT FONMIN LEVEL.)

(D) FINAL CONTACTS WILL BE BETWEEN "GROUP OF CONFRONTATION COUNTRIES" AND REMAINDER OF ARAB COUNTRIES. (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH JORDAN IS AGAIN LEFT UNMENTIONED IN CONTEXT OF THIS NEW ARAB STRATEGY, BOTH AHRAH AND AKHBAR HAVE CHOSEN TO PUBLISH PHOTO OF JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTING CREDENTIALS FOR THEIR APRIL 10 FRONT PAGES, RATHER THAN THAT OF ANY OF TEN OTHERS WHO PRESENTED CREDENTIALS SAME DAY.)

3. AHRAH REPORTS FURTHER FROM PALESTINIAN SOURCE IN CAIRO THAT ARAFAT WILL LEAVE "IN COMING FEW HOURS" FOR ALGIERS AND ADDS THAT PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY HAS REPORTED THAT GISCARD D'ESTAING WILL MEET "HIGH LEVEL PALESTINIAN DELEGATION" DURING HIS ALGIERS VISIT.

4. IN OTHER REPORTS, AHRAH WRITES THAT PLO EXCOMM WILL HOLD "IMPORTANT" MEETING IN DAMASCUS FOLLOWING ARAFAT'S RETURN, AND QUOTES PLO EXCOMM SPOKESMAN ABU MAYZAR TO EFFECT THAT DELEGATES FOR MOSCOW TRIP WILL BE DECIDED UPON DURING DAMASCUS MEETING.

5. AS IN ALL HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS HERE, ARAFAT IN HIS APRIL 9 TV APPEARANCE WAS CAREFUL TO EXPRESS COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR SADAT, NOTING "THERE CANNOT POSSIBLY BE ANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US AND EGYPT...BECAUSE THIS WOULD BE BLASPHEMY." HE EXPLAINED AWAY PAST DIFFERENCES, CALLING
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THEM "MERE STUPIDITIES BY REVOLUTIONARIES", WHO NEVERTHELESS "ALWAYS AGREE ON COMMON OBJECTIVES". DRAWING ON HISTORICAL TIES BETWEEN EGYPT AND PALESTINE DATING BACK TO TUTHMOSIS AND RAMSES, ARAFAT DESCRIBED PALESTINE AS "FLANK OF EGYPT".
MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PLANNING MEETINGS, CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO03653
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750126-0019
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750464/aaaacgpp.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COORDINATION STRATEGY FOR "NEW ARAB DRIVE". SUMMARY. AHRAH CLAIMS AN ARAB COORDINATION SCENARIOS EXISTS INVOLVING
TAGS: PFOR, XF, EG, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006